

I am aware that school districts are anxious to receive estimates of federal program dollars available for the 2003-2004 school year. Unfortunately, my office does not have that information available. My best advice, for most federal programs, is to budget approximately the same amount that you have in the previous year. To view Missouri's proposed budget listed on the federal web site:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/Budget04/04StateTables/index.html>

The United States Department of Education will use income year 1999 data provided by the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Branch to determine the school year 2003-2004 Title I allocations. The SAIPE estimates are based on a model that incorporates data from Census 2000, plus other more up-to-date indicators of poverty. These data are available on the Census Bureau's web site at

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/school/sd99ftpdoc.html>

The United States Department of Education plans to use this data to allocate school year 2003-2004 Title I, Part A funds. We have been asked to check this data for accuracy of school district boundary. Our office feels that the census bureau has the correct school district boundary information. However, we will continue to do some comparison checks. The USDE has stated, "Other than boundary errors, the census numbers are not otherwise subject to change." We are providing this data to keep you informed about the allocation process. We will not be able to challenge the validity of the numbers.

The Federal Financial Management office has used this information to prepare a comparison of the SY 2003-2004 data and SY 2002-2003 data. This comparison file is on the Federal Programs web page under Current Issues entitled "Census Data for Title I Allocations." <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/fedprog/>

The comparison document shows three different types of census data: Poverty, School Age Children ages 5-17, and District Population. This data is for your entire school district boundary. It includes both public and nonpublic children. Keep in mind that census poverty is much more restrictive than the free & reduced lunch count. For instance, a family of four would have an annual income of \$18,400 or less to be on census poverty. That same family of four would qualify for F & R Lunch with an annual income of \$34,040.

The census poverty data does not include other formula children such as foster children and neglected children. These counts will be added at a later date. Once this information has been checked, we should be able to estimate a minimum Title I allocation for each district. I hope to have this information available towards the end of April.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at bmorff@mail.dese.state.mo.us or 573-751-8280.